From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

HUD charges

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is charging Facebook Inc. with violating the Fair Housing Act for "encouraging, enabling and causing" housing discrimination through its online advertising tools that allow advertisers to target based on race, gender, zip code and religion. The move comes after Facebook said last week it would overhaul its tools for job, housing and loan advertisements as part of a settlement with civil rights groups.
- HUD also notified Twitter Inc. and Google last year that the agency is also looking into the companies' advertising practices for possible housing

discrimination, according to three sources with direct knowledge of the agency's move.

European Union tech regulation

- The European Parliament passed legislation Tuesday tightening its internet copyright laws, which will now include the addition of a "link tax" mandating that news aggregators, such as Google, have licenses to link to publishers and a requirement for platforms to filter out any copyrighted materials as they're uploaded. Google, Reddit and other internet companies have come out against the new rules, and critics have warned that the changes could chill freedom of speech online.

- The European Commission presented a recommendation to ignore the United States' call to ban Huawei Technologies Co., while also urging member countries to share data related to any cybersecurity risks with 5G networks, according to four people familiar with the matter.

Content moderation

- Facebook said it is banning all explicit praise, support or representation of white nationalism and separatism on its platform and Instagram beginning this week, following criticism from civil rights groups and historians after the company decided to only ban "white supremacy" on the platform last year. Implicit and coded language on the topics will not be banned yet because the company said it's more difficult to detect and remove.

- Google has decided to pull an app from its store that LGBTQ rights groups claim promotes a form of conversion therapy, joining Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Microsoft Corp. in removing it. The move follows the Human Rights Campaign's decision to remove Google's score from its influential Corporate Equality Index, which will now be restored.

Silicon Valley and AI ethics

- Google has established an external advisory council to provide insights on its artificial intelligence technology, including facial recognition and machine learning, and the ethics behind it. The council, whose members include both researchers and entrepreneurs, will hold four meetings in 2019, resulting in a published report summarizing the conversations.

- Amazon said it is partnering with the National Science Foundation to research how artificial intelligence software makes decisions and processes data as Amazon Web Services faces questions about the accuracy of its facial recognition software, which it reportedly sells to law enforcement agencies. Each organization is pledging up to $10 million over the next three years for the project.

Cybersecurity and national security

- Google is said to be conducting a secret internal assessment of its censored search engine for China, known as Dragonfly, which would blacklist information on human rights, democracy, religion and peaceful protest. Only senior managers who have been previously briefed on the project are a part of the closed review committee, according to two Google sources, and the review has not been disclosed officially to rank-and-file employees, who have previously protested the project.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency's inspector general said officials at the agency accidentally exposed the personal information - including Social Security numbers and banking information - of 2.3 million survivors of hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma and the 2017 California wildfires to a contractor during a data transfer.

- The Defense Department in response to a Freedom of Information Act request said that its 5,000 pages of relevant material on Google's Project Maven was exempt from public disclosure under "Exemption 3" of the act, which allows the government to withhold records that tie to "critical infrastructure security information." Project Maven is known as an artificial intelligence-based project aimed at helping the military pick out drone targets faster and more easily; however, not much else is known about it.

Telecoms and wireless

- The Federal Trade Commission is launching a broad inquiry into internet service providers' privacy practices, with the agency requesting that large companies, such as AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., and T-Mobile Inc., explain how they handle consumer data. The move, which gives companies 45 days to respond, is a step forward for the agency in monitoring and regulating how ISPs collect and share user data.

- Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Amy Klobuchar unveiled her

trillion-dollar infrastructure plan in a blog post, including an initiative to roll out high-speed internet to every household by 2022. Klobuchar said she would close the "urban-rural" digital divide by correcting the current broadband maps and incentivizing internet service providers to upgrade their own networks, although it's unclear what those incentives would look like.

- The Democrat-backed bill to reinstate net neutrality rules passed a vote in the House Energy and Commerce Committee's communications and technology subcommittee in a 18-11 vote along party lines after a markup meeting. The Save the Internet Act now faces a full committee vote, and House Democratic leadership has said they plan to bring it to the floor the week of April 8.

- The FTC said it fined four operators for violating several of the agency's regulations by making billions of illegal robocalls that pitched a variety of services, such as debt relief and home security systems. The companies, NetDotSolutions, Higher Goals Marketing, Veterans of America and Pointbreak Media, are now banned from robocalling and most telemarketing activities.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session this week.

- The Senate Commerce Committee will hold a markup session on Wednesday, including legislation on robocall abuse, internet nationalization and several transportation nominations.

- The Federal Communications Commission's next open commission meeting will take place on April 12. Agenda items include the 5G incentive auction, 37 GHz & 50 GHz spectrum band rules and fixed wireless infrastructure rules.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

03/29/2019

Women in Cybersecurity Conference	
Brookings Institution's "Digital technology in the age of artificial intelligence: A comparative perspective" lecture	10:30 am

04/02/2019

WSJ Pro Artificial Intelligence Executive Forum	7:30 am
CHCI Graduate Fellows' 2019 Capitol Hill Policy Briefing Series including panels on election tech and future of work	9:00 am
House Science Committee's hearing on NASA's 2020 fiscal year budget	10:00 am
House Veterans' Affairs Committee's tech modernization subcommittee's hearing on the Office of Information and Technology	10:15 am
Washington Space Business Roundtable's event with former Congressman Mike Rogers	11:30 am
House Veterans' Affairs Committee's tech modernization subcommittee's hearing on tech to support the care community	2:00 pm

04/03/2019

Military IoT & Sensors Summit	
International Privacy + Security Forum	
Senate Commerce's markup session on legislation, including robocalling and internet nationalization	9:30 am
American Enterprise Institute's data privacy panel discussion	12:00 pm
House Appropriations' hearing on the FCC's budget	1:30 pm

Senate Judiciary's intellectual property subcommittee hearing on women inventors	2:15 pm
TheBridge, Women's High-Tech Coalition and the Women in Tech Campaign's talk on women in tech and policy	6:00 pm

04/04/2019

Military IoT & Sensors Summit

International Privacy + Security Forum

04/05/2019

International Privacy + Security Forum

View full calendar

The State of the Democratic Primary

On a daily basis, Morning Consult is surveying over 5,000 registered voters across the United States on the 2020 presidential election. Each week, we'll update **this page** with the latest survey data, offering an in-depth guide to how the race for the Democratic nomination is shaping up.

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Amy Klobuchar wants broadband in every household by 2022

Makena Kelly, The Verge

2) Europe just voted to change the face of the internet, backing new laws wildly unpopular with firms like Google and Reddit
Isobel Asher Hamilton, Business Insider

3) HUD is reviewing Twitter's and Google's ad practices as part of housing discrimination probe
Tracy Jan and Elizabeth Dwoskin, The Washington Post

4) Supreme Court rejects appeal from shoe retailer Zappos in data breach case
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

5) The Silicon Valley investor charged in the college bribery scandal has a unique response to the indictment
Theodore Schleifer, Recode

6) Pentagon eyeing 5G solutions with Huawei rivals Ericsson and Nokia: official
Mike Stone, Reuters

7) The People With Power on Facebook's Policy and Communications Team
Ashley Gold, The Information

8) FTC announces inquiry into the privacy practices of broadband providers
Makena Kelly, The Verge

9) Google looks to outside experts to guide work on controversial AI issues
Abrar Al-Heeti, CNET

10) The fringe right's obsession with Andrew Yang
Sara Fischer, Axios

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